

LEAVES WEALTH TO OLD SWEETHEART

Spinster Cut Off 31 Cousins to Enrich the Schoolmate Who Courted Her 50 Years Ago.

HE IS A CIVIL WAR VETERAN.

Garrison Whittemore Reveals the Romance in His Engagement to Miss Elizabeth Kimball, Whose Bequest He Will Accept.

HISTORIC SPECIAL.
Boston, May 28.—Like a chapter out of a novel reads the romantic romance of Garrison Whittemore, an old and respected resident of the Roxbury district, who has been bequeathed a small fortune by Miss Elizabeth C. Kimball of Peabody, a sweetheart of Garrison's long ago, who died on Thursday. By her will, Miss Kimball provided cuts of thirty-one cousins and adopted relatives and left nearly all her property, estimated at about \$6000 to Mr. Whittemore. The property is to be held in trust for him and at his death is to be distributed among various churches and missionary organizations.

After her death, the reading of the will there was brought to light the story of a courtship and a betrothal of nearly forty years ago, a courtship which ended in the season. Miss Kimball died a spinster. In many ways the case is an unusual and remarkable one, and never before has the loyalty of so many better exemplified the bonds of friendship and to Mr. Whittemore the bequest came as a great surprise and a mild sensation has been created in the Roxbury neighborhood.

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Mrs. Whittemore lives at 37 Brent street, Roxbury, with her wife and son, Dr. H. H. Whittemore. He is a more or less Arthur H. Whittemore, who lives in Roxbury. Both are married. Mr. Whittemore is 67 years of age and one of the oldest members of the electrical trade in this city.

Miss Kimball was the daughter of Oberlin Kimball, a man of means, who died early. She was her father's only child, and when her mother died, three years later, she was left alone in the world. She continued to live in the family home, however, for two years, and when she left it, she was thrifty, and succeeded in wise investments, increasing the property left her.

AFTER THE FUNERAL the relatives returned to the Kimball place, and the will was read by Lawyer Arthur M. Sims of Boston. Mrs. Kimball had died in 1900, and the instrument was witnessed by Mrs. Rufus H. Brown, Mrs. Helen E. Blaney, and Rosalie Lee, the widow of the witness. It is believed that she knew nothing of the contents of the document. Mrs. Helen Culkin is made sole executrix and trustee of the estate, and is to serve without pay.

ENGAGEMENT AND SEPARATION.

It was found that Miss Kimball had left the bulk of her property to Mr. Whittemore, although there were several minor bequests to friends, servants and churches and church organizations. There were numerous bequests of kinds, and the bequests of the will were anything but satisfactory to the relatives present. While the amount was not large, a sum sufficient to Mr. Whittemore, he refused to make public the cause of the separation from his former sweetheart. He admitted the fact of the separation, however, but declined to talk of the details in which the unusual bequest can be attributed.

In his school days he met, wooed and won Miss Kimball, and their little courtship shattered for a reason not generally known. His hair is now gray, and his face is wrinkled, but he is still as sprightly, and his eyes are clear. While the subject is one which he had supposed Miss Kimball had long ago forgotten, when he spoke of it, he said that his eyes filled up and he had considerable difficulty in keeping back the tears.

"I thought she had forgotten all about me," he said. "I have become nearly deaf since we saw each other. And to think she should remember me in this manner! I was greatly surprised to hear her speak of me as one of the greatest. I didn't even know that she had been ill. It was in 1867 that we parted, our engagement being broken off because she had never entered my head that she even thought of me."

"It is a simple story, though an unusual one. She had become ill through the announcement of the will of Miss Kimball," he said. "We were sweethearts, and would probably have been married if she had not been ill. But she remained single through her lifetime. Miss Kimball and I were born in the same town, and I am the same age. We were close, but on account of the difference in our ages—I suppose she was three years younger than I—we were not thrown in with the same set. We attended one district school and she went to another.

But it was in the Peabody High School that I first became ill. We were in the same class, and during the first two years were simply friends. She was a bright girl, studious, and always a good worker. Up to that time, she was a fine-looking girl, entertaining and attractive. As young ladies grow, however, they begin to take on a more serious aspect.

HE JOINED THE ARMY.

"As the time of our separation was spent together, and our parents did not disapprove, just about that time the Civil War broke out, and I enlisted for three years' service with the 1st Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf. I made of Roxbury fellows, up to that time our acquaintance had been nothing more than friendly, and when I went away, nothing was said by either of us about remaining true to each other or that sort of thing. While in the South we corresponded frequently, my service had been worked out. Then I returned to Peabody in the summer of 1865. I met Miss Kimball again, and we again kept in touch.

"It was in Peabody that I began a career before returning to war. In that interval we went to many places together—New England, New York, and other towns visiting relatives of Miss Kimball and my own. It was during that spring that we became engaged, and the match was approved by both parents. It was worked out. Then I returned to Peabody in the summer of 1865. I met Miss Kimball again, and we again kept in touch.

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